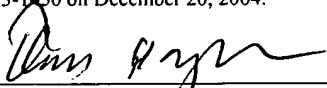




RCE 3731  
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Thomas H. Majcher, Reg. No. 31,119

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No. : 09/945,152 Confirmation No. 2607  
Applicant : William J. Boyle et al.  
Filed : August 31, 2001  
Art Unit : 3731  
Examiner : Ho, Uyen T.  
Title : SHEATHLESS EMBOLIC PROTECTION SYSTEM

Docket No.: : ACS 57082 (2227X) Los Angeles, California  
Customer No. : 24201 December 20, 2004

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action of August 24, 2004 and the Advisory Action of November 24, 2004. This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continuing Examination (RCE) and a request for a one-month extension of time, the response for which is due December 27, 2004.

Claims start on page 2.

Remarks start on page 10.

12/29/2004 MBEYENE1 00000022 09945152

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04 FC:1202 400.00 DP